LIBRARY

HEALTH
E. 6 SEP 1945
C.R. 43

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1944

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29902770

URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	Catherine B. McGregor, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Surveyor, Sanitary and Meat Inspector, Housing Supervisor	James Kailofer, M.R. San. Inst., M.S.I.A., F.F.A.S., Certif. R.S.I. Meat and Foods.
Offices of the U.D.C.	Council Offices, Newbiggin.
Telephone	Newbiggin 50.
Office of the M.O.H.	146, Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone.	Ashington 287.
Residence of M.O.H.	45, The Avenue, Loansdean, Morpeth.
Telephone	Morpeth 519.

URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1944.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, in acres - 1,841.

Registrar General's estimate of
Resident population mid 1944 8,797

Rateable value - £35,799.

One penny rate produces - £149. 3s. 3d.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) - 2,430.

Vital Statistics.

Births:-

Live Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	184	89	95
Illegitimate	9	2	7

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 21.9

Still Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 15.3

Deaths:-	Total.	Male.	Female.
	106	73	33

Death rate per 1,000 of the population - 12.05.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:- (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list):-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No.29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
No.30 Other maternal causes...	Nil	Nil

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births 41.45
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 43.47
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births . Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 18
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..... Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ..... Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 1

The Registrar General supplies the following:-

CAUSES OF DEATHS 1944.

Causes of Death.	Male	Female
1. Typhoid & paratyphoid fevers.	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal fever.	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever.	-	-
4. Whooping Cough.	-	-
5. Diphtheria.	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of resp: system.	2	2
7. Other forms of tuberculosis.	1	-
8. Syphilitic diseases.	-	-
9. Influenza.	-	-
10. Measles.	-	-
11. Acute polio-myel: and polio-enceph:	-	-
12. Acute inf: enceph:	-	-
13. Cancer of buc: cav: & Oesoph: (M), uterus (F)	1	3
14. Cancer of stomach & duodenum	2	-
15. Cancer of breast.	-	1
16. Cancer of all other sites.	8	3
17. Diabetes	1	1
18. Inter-cranial vascular lesions	17	8
19. Heart disease.	20	9
20. Other dis: of circ. system.	1	1
21. Bronchitis.	-	-
22. Pneumonia.	3	1
23. Other resp: diseases.	1	-
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	1	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years.	1	-
26. Appendicitis.	-	-
27. Other digve. dis:	1	-
28. Nephritis.	3	1
29. Puer: & post-abort: sepsis.	-	-
30. Other maternal causes.	-	-
31. Premature birth.	-	2
32. Con: mal: birth inj: infant: dis:	2	-
33. Suicide	-	-
34. Road traffic acc:	2	1
35. Other violent causes.	4	-
36. All other causes.	2	-
	73	33

		Male.	Female.
Deaths of infants under 1 year.	(Legitimate	4	4
	(Illegitimate	-	-
	Totals	4	4

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1944.

Causes of death.	Und 1 wk.	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	Total under 1 mth	1-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	Total under 1 yr.
Gastro-enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Prematurity	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Congenital malformation	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Birth injury	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	4	-	1	-	5	1	1	1	-	8

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities are obtained at the County Laboratory, Newburn. The extent to which the facilities have been utilized is shown below:

Specimen sent in by	Specimen.	Pos.	Neg.
C.C.T.O.	Sputa for tubercle.	3	25
Medical Practitioners.	do.	1	32
M.O.H.	Swabs for C.diphtheriae.	8	69
Medical Practitioners.	do.	41	93
School Medical Officer.	do.	2	2
Medical Practitioners.	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococcus.	9	16
Medical Practitioners.	Faeces for organisms.	1	4
Medical Practitioners.	Blood for Widal.	-	2
Medical Practitioners.	Blood culture.	-	1

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For accidents and non-infectious cases - one (Miners Welfare) Newbiggin; one (Miners Welfare) North Seaton Colliery.

The removal of cases of infectious and contagious disease from their home to isolation units is the responsibility of the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There are four nurses within the district as follows:-

Two Newbiggin Colliery Welfare; One North Seaton Colliery Welfare; One District Nursing Association.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS - No change.

HOSPITALS, Public and Voluntary - There are none in the district.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

Water for the Newbiggin area is derived in bulk from the reservoirs of Tynemouth Corporation and is subjected to chlorination by the suppliers prior to its arrival in the district. The daily consumption during 1944 was approximately 228,189 gallons, which equals 32 gallons per head of the population per day, which is a reduction of one gallon per head per day on the consumption for 1943.

The water is of a very high standard of purity and during most of the year the supply is ample and the pressure good. During two or three of the summer months, however, there is at times a failure in the supply to the high parts of the town. This is apparently due to the influx of summer visitors and to wastage of water in the parts of the town which have a constant supply.

It is estimated that 90% of the houses in Newbiggin have water laid on. The remainder are served by outside taps.

North Seaton Colliery and Village are supplied with water from the North Seaton Pit. This water is plentiful, and although at times it contains a considerable amount of deposit, it is of a high bacteriological standard. Unfortunately it has also a high degree of hardness. It is estimated that only about 10% of the houses in North Seaton Colliery have water laid on. The remainder are supplied by taps, either in the back yard or just outside. Arrangements have been made whereby should this supply break down, North Seaton could be supplied with water from the 6" trunk main which carries the Newbiggin water supply.

During the year the following samples were taken:

Lab.Ref.	Date collected	Place of collection.	Coli-Aerogenes per 100ml water.
62	19.4.44	Council Garage, Rothesay Terrace.	Nil
63	19.4.44	16, North Seaton Road.	1
64	19.4.44	14, Wood Row, North Seaton.	Nil
65	19.4.44	7, Chapel Row, North Seaton.	Nil
101	15.6.44	Council Garage, Rothesay Terrace.	Nil

Newbiggin Pit Head Baths used 1,187,180 gallons in the year, which equals 3,252 gallons per day, an increase of 702,500 gallons for the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No sewer extensions were carried out during the year. Necessary repairs due to tidal action were carried out to the outfall sewer near Sandridge.

Regular inspection and flushing of sewers are carried out.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Privy Middens (Newbiggin 32)
(North Seaton 126) 158

No. of Water Closets 2,332

No. of Pail Closets (on allotments) 4

No. of Ashpits (Newbiggin 30)
(North Seaton 75) 105

There are three Public Conveniences in the district situated at Bridge Street, Prospect Place and Milburn Park.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

All scavenging is carried out by direct labour by means of one Dennis motor driven cleansing vehicle and two horse-drawn low-loading carts. The carts are employed at North Seaton and Newbiggin Colliery houses. All ashbins are emptied thrice weekly.

Salvage.

Salvage is collected from the houses as the ashbins are emptied and also from the Tradesman by pony and cart.

There has been a falling off in amounts of all types of salvage during the year.

During the year the following amounts of Salvage were sold:-

	T	C	Q	lb.	£.	s.	d.
Mixed Wastepaper.	33	9	0	0	211.	16.	7
Mixed scrap metal.	2	8	1	7	7.	3.	7
Bones.	1	6	0	14	6.	3.	3
Rags, sacking etc.	2	4	1	14	21.	14.	1
Tins.	2	6	0	0	3.	9.	0
Jars & Bottles (280½ doz.)	2	6	0	0	7.	9.	2
Rubber.		12	0	14		15.	3
	44	11	3	21	258.	10.	11

Refuse Tips.

Refuse from Newbiggin is deposited at Blue Holes tip and that from North Seaton into a disused Quarry at North Seaton.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action taken.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Chimney Firings: This nuisance continued throughout the year.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public swimming baths in this area.

Pit head baths are in use at both collieries with accommodation as follows:-

Newbiggin	1,050
North Seaton	700

These are for the use of mine-workers.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of Council Houses found to be infested during the year was one. This was disinfested.

Number of private houses found to be infested during the year was Nil.

The method employed for disinfestation is by means of "Pyragra" Insecticide used with a pressure spray.

All disinfestations are carried out by Council workmen.

SCHOOLS.

Number of schools in the district:-

Newbiggin 3 council schools (senior, junior and infant), 2 C. of E. schools (junior and infant).

North Seaton - 2 council schools (junior and infant).

RATS.

During the year the campaign against rats was instituted. The manholes of the sewers were twice treated with the following results:-

First treatment - 368 manholes baited - 100 showed presence of rats.

Second treatment- 277 manholes baited - 35 showed presence of rats.

SECTION D.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during 1944:-

(a) By Local Authority (with state assistance) ..... None.
(b) By other bodies or persons ..... None.

Plans were approved by the Government Departments for erection of 108 Permanent Houses after the war. Tenders were accepted for the construction of roads and sewers. It is hoped to have an early start with the work.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

No. of Registered Cowkeepers at 31.12.44 7
No. of Registered Purveyors of Milk at 31.12.44 .. 13
No. of cows at 31.12.44 103

A number of samples of milk were submitted to the County Bacteriologist for submission to the Methylene Blue Test and also for the biological test for tubercle. The results of these investigations are set out below:-

Produced and retailed within the district:

For Cleanliness:	M.B.Test satisfied.	M.B.Test failed.
	4	2

For Tuberculosis:	Positive.	Negative.
	1	3

Produced outwith and retailed in the district:

For Cleanliness:	M.B.Test satisfied.	M.B.Test failed.
	-	2

For Tuberculosis:	Positive	Negative.
	-	1

Produced within the district and taken by the County Sanitary Inspector

For Tuberculosis:	Positive	Negative.
	1	-

Two cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938 and the milk from the two affected herds was subsequently reported as non-tuberculous.

Meat and other Foods.

No. of Registered Slaughter houses at 31.12.44 4

All slaughtering is done at Ashington under the Ministry of Food.

I give below statement of foodstuffs which were voluntarily surrendered to me during the year and found to be unfit for human consumption:-

Tinned Meats	155½ lb.
Tinned Fruit, Peas etc.	2 tins.
Tinned Milk & Dried Milk	65½ lb.
Packet Puddings etc.	138 packets
Tins of Pilchards	1¼ lb.
Salmon (tinned)	3 lb.
Bacon and Ham	2 cwt. 18¼ lb.
Sausage	42 lb.
Potatoes	7 cwt.
Butter and Margarine	12 lb.
Raisins.	13 lb.
Jam	2 lb.
English Beef	12 lb
Pork (frozen)	11½ lb
Orange Juice (Child Welfare Centre)	864 bottles.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease was provided throughout the year at the Ashington Unit of the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, of which the Urban District Council is a constituent.

	Total Cases notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	13	3	-
Diphtheria	27	22	-
Pneumonia	47	Not known.	4
Erysipelas	5	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Measles	16	-	-
Whooping Cough	33	-	-

Table Showing Analysis of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases under Age Groups in Newbiggin.

	Und 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over	Age unknown	Total.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	3	1	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Diphtheria	-	-	1	1	1	11	8	4	1	-	-	-	-	27
Pneumonia	6	2	3	3	3	7	1	-	4	4	8	6	-	47
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	2	-	2	2	3	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	16
Whooping Cough	2	6	6	5	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33

Enteric Fevers.

No case of typhoid or paratyphoid fever was notified during the year.

Diphtheria.

This disease showed a welcome decrease in incidence, there being only 27 cases notified as compared with 48 in the preceding year. Of the 27 cases, 13 were known to have been immunised and 14 were non-immunised. Twenty-two patients were removed to hospital.

Four diphtheria carriers were detected during the year and of these three were removed to hospital. All were ultimately freed from the carrier state.

There were no deaths.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The immunisation state of the child population at the end of 1944 is shown in the following table:-

Between 5 and 15 years 69.57%
Under 5 years 47.65%

These figures show a very considerable decrease as compared with the position at the end of 1943, but it is hoped that the numbers will again shortly be increased.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

These diseases also were much less prevalent than in the previous year and there were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever.

There were only 13 cases during 1944 as compared with 31 during 1943. There were no deaths.

On the whole the record of infectious disease in the Urban District during the year is satisfactory, except in the case of Pneumonia, which showed an increase of 2 cases to a total of 47 cases. This disease is one which maintains a constant and fairly high incidence in this district.

Defence (General) Regulations 1939, Scabies Order, 1941, No.33A.

Scabies and other verminous conditions showed a very great decrease in incidence during 1944, only 24 cases of scabies, and "Scabies and Lice" being treated at the cleansing station, as compared with 118 in 1943.

The cleansing station at Ashington continued to function during the year and clinics at which your Medical Officer attended, were held twice weekly.

The following table shows the number of persons treated according to their ages and the conditions from which they suffered:-

	Scabies Only.		Scabies & Lice.		Scabies not discovered.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Over 16 yrs.	2	4	-	2	-	1
5 - 16 yrs.	3	4	4	3	1	-
Under 5 yrs.	1	1	-	-	-	3
	6	9	4	5	1	4

Also appended is a table showing the total numbers treated from all the five districts included in the No.2 Medical Area.

	Scabies Only.		Scabies & Lice.		Lice Only.		Scabies not discovered.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Over 16 yrs.	56	124	-	29	-	10	11	52
5 - 16 yrs.	144	112	33	67	2	15	17	12
Under 5 yrs.	43	36	5	11	1	-	7	10
	243	272	38	107	3	25	35	74

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods	New Cases. Resp.		New Cases. Non-Resp.		Deaths. Resp.		Deaths. Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
15-	2	2	-	1	1	-	1	-
25-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
35-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
45-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4	6	-	3	2	2	1	-

During 1943 the total of new cases notified was 25, and the total number of deaths was 8.

CANCER MORTALITY DURING 1944.

	Males						Females					
	20	30	45	55	65	Total.	20	30	45	55	65	Total
Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Mouth	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pancreas	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stomach	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Skin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Rectum	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	2
Colon	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liver	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kidney	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Larynx	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prostate	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	1	1	2	7	11	-	-	4	1	2	7

Birth-rates, Civilian Death -rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1944. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns

	England and Wales.	126 C.Bs. and great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 census.	London Adm. County
*Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-				
Live Births	17.6 ≠	20.3	20.9	15.0
Still "	0.50 ≠	0.64	0.61	0.42
Deaths				
All Causes	11.6 ≠	13.7	12.4	15.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01
Influenza	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.08
Smallpox	0.00	-	-	-
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-				
Deaths under 1 Year of age	46 ≠	52	44	61
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 Years of Age	4.8	7.3	4.4	10.1

* A dash (-) signifies that there were no deaths.
≠ Per 1,000 related births
≠ Rates per 1,000 Total population.

* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-				
Notifications:-				
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.06
Scarlet Fever	2.40	2.41	2.67	1.57
Whooping Cough	2.49	2.49	2.29	2.90
Diphtheria	0.58	0.67	0.69	0.31
Erysipelas	0.29	0.32	0.28	0.37
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	4.16	4.51	3.94	2.98
Pneumonia	0.97	1.13	0.82	0.93
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):-				
(a) Notifications:-				
Puerperal Fever Puerperal Pyrexia	) 10.34	13.13	9.25	(3.61 (≠14.14

(b) Maternal Mortality - England and Wales:-

No.140 Abortion with Sepsis	No.141 Abortion without Sepsis	No.147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other
0.31	0.09	0.28	1.25

Abortion: Mortality per million women aged 15-45 -England and Wales:-

No.140 With Sepsis	No.141 Without Sepsis
25	7

≠ Including Puerperal fever